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POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES IN SATELLITES CONTINUE,
AMNESTIES PLANNED

BULGARIAN HOUSING SHORTAGE RESULTS IN INCIDENTS -- Istanbul, Cumhuriyet, 13 Feb 54

Factory incidents, followed by arrests, were the result of a decision of the Bulgarian government to delay the housing program in order to build memorials in honor of Soviet liberators. In Sofia and other Bulgarian cities, there is a waiting list of 150 individuals and families for every room which is vacated.

BULGARIAN AUTHORITIES REVERSE LENTEN POLICIES -- Istanbul, Yeni Sabah, 16 Feb 54

Vienna, 15 February (Nafen) -- After Bulgarian leaders had announced a relaxation of strict control measures and had permitted inmates of camps to settle in the vicinity of any city except Sofia, many persons found shelter with already hard-pressed relatives. According to reports reaching Vienna, orders have now been issued to return these persons to the camps. About 60,000 persons from Sofia and other large cities had been sent to camps. The police have received orders to restore all previously existing control measures. No explanation has been given for this reversal of policy.

ILLEGAL NEWSPAPER CIRCULATES IN THE GDR -- Hamburg, Hamburger Abendblatt, 19 Nov 53

Under the title "Sozialdemokrat," the East Office of the SPD (Sozialdemokratische Partei Deutschlands, German Social-Democratic Party) has started publication of a pocket-size newspaper for clandestine distribution in the GDR. The newspaper reportedly has already found wide distribution in the GDR. The subtitle of the newspaper reads: For the People and Against Its Oppressors.

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POLITICAL AMNESTY IN SATELLITES -- Paris, Danube-Press, 10 Jan 54

The governments of the [Eastern European] satellite countries are preparing a new political amnesty. Leaders of former opposition political parties and all Zionists, either convicted or on trial, will be freed. Details of the amnesty were discussed at a recent Cominform meeting.

Hamburg, Hamburger Abendblatt, 15 Jan 54

According to reports received in West Berlin from sources close to the GDR Ministry of Justice, a third amnesty will be granted soon to defendants sentenced by Soviet or GDR courts. The third amnesty, which follows those granted by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on 27 March and 10 June 1953, will include German prisoners of war in Soviet camps.

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